

“Lead us not into Temptation...”

Matthew 6:13

NLT – “Don’t let us yield to temptation”

Temptation

James 1:12-15 – James gives us a qualifier. God does not tempt us with evil but Scripture teaches that He does “test us” or more likely, “allows” us to be tested. Probably the most prevalent ways God tests us is He “delays” our deliverance from difficulties... from our perspective “delays;” from God’s perspective, perfect timing!

Temptation - The Context:

Matthew 4:1- This passage is key because it teaches us that we have an enemy that tempts us with things that are specific to our personalities and our weaknesses (**Ephesians 6:10-11** - schemes, strategies).

Luke 4:13

What we normally think of as temptations may not be our biggest weakness... there are more subtle *temptations* that we may not even recognize.

Examples:

Touching a leper

A Gentile Roman officer asking for help

Public opinion

The multitudes flattery

The rejection of God’s people including family, the best and the brightest of Jewish society etc...

“Heaven forbid Lord... this will never happen to you!”

Martha’s insistence to *get things done* caused her to miss *the important thing*... how many opportunities do we miss because we need to get things done?

Judas - Little compromises can lead to bigger ones. People don’t usually walk into a big compromise first but they come into our lives in little way and slowly erode away our resistance until we can find ourselves doing things we never thought we would do.

Saul – Doubting God’s call and his own abilities led him to try to please people over God’s instructions

“Don’t waste my time...!”

Comfort:

I Corinthians 10:13 – God promises here to not allow you to be tempted more than you can stand. He will show you a way out! It may not be easy and it may not be instantaneous (James 1:2-4) but He is faithful!